

# WILD AND FREE

## Winter at the Rescue Facility

By April Hudson.  
Assistant Herd Manager

Winter is a special time of year for the wild Colonial Spanish Mustangs. Life is more peaceful on the north beach, and the horses get to truly live wild and free.

The off-season is also a special time for me. With fewer emergency calls, I am able to spend more time with the horses at our rehabilitation facility.

Amadeo is an aged stallion who is blind and was rescued from the surf, back in May of 2013. He remains blind, and he has faced additional challenges with his recovery. He has difficulty maintaining a healthy weight, and his liver enzyme count is high. We are closely monitoring both.

Firecracker and Freedom have recently returned to us. (They were staying in our partner facility in Virginia.) I will begin their saddle training in the spring. Firecracker is going to be a big boy once he finishes growing!

I am also taking care of Tradewind, a Colonial Spanish Mustang stallion who was removed from the beach several years ago. He is with us thanks to the kindness of Steve Edwards and Mill Swamp Indian Horses. Our Executive Director, Karen McCalpin, will be riding him at the Maryland Horse World Expo in Timonium, Maryland in January. Wish them luck!

## DO THE RIGHT THING—H.R.126

By Karen McCalpin  
Executive Director

On June 23, 2013 the United States House of Representatives did the right thing. They unanimously passed the *Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act*. Our hopes were high....

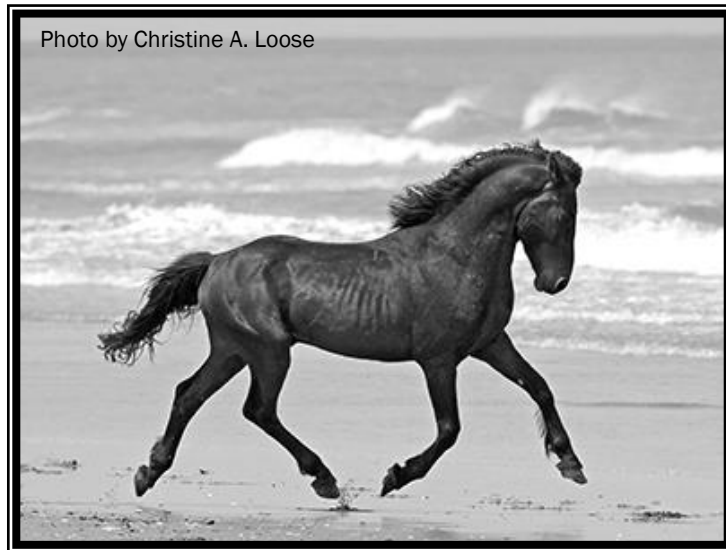
Unfortunately, after passage in the House and moving to the Senate, the bill was never assigned to a Senate Committee.

Congressman Walter Jones, the ASPCA, the Humane Society of the United States, the Animal Welfare Institute, and many other national groups, all did the right thing and tried fervently to have NC Senator Kay Hagan garner support for the *Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act*.

Unfortunately, the bill went nowhere in the Senate in 2013. But HR126 is not dead yet.

**The Senate has a chance to do the right thing in 2014.** It is the right thing to do to protect and conserve this rare and ancient

Photo by Christine A. Loose



breed that is already listed as critically endangered. It is the right thing to do to protect and conserve an animal whose centuries-old ancestors' bones are mingled with the sand all along the coast of the Outer Banks.

It is the right thing to do to conserve and protect an animal that has peacefully and successfully co-existed with all other wildlife for nearly 500 years.

Why is it so hard for our legislators in the Senate to do the right thing?

Join us in being a voice for those who have none.

Please, write your United States senators, and ask them to support the *Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act*. Ask your friends and family to do the same.

Read the actual bill, and find more information on our website!

## Our "Buck for a Truck" Program Continues!



Last fall, we put our rusty emergency response vehicle in semi-retirement. It is suitable for work around our rehabilitation barn—but not for responding to horse emergencies on the beach. In October, we obtained a used, well maintained F150 4x4 that has been designated as our rescue vehicle—ready to go at a moment's notice!

Members and visitors have generously donated on Facebook and our website, and they continue to send checks in the mail and drop dollars in our *Buck for a Truck* donation jars. Thank you for your generous support! We have raised over \$1200 so far, and we are working to raise an additional \$3500, so please spread the word. Every dollar helps save a horse!

—by Susan Mathews, Director of Operations

**Full Time Staff**

**Karen McCalpin**  
Executive Director

**Susan Mathews**  
Director of Operations

**Mark Olson**  
Director of Education

**April Hudson**  
Assistant Herd Manager

★★★

**Seasonal Staff**

**Alice Bradley**  
Retail Manager - Corolla

**Don Bradley**  
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**Betsy Henkel**  
Retail Manager - Duck

**Judy Klein**  
Retail Support - Duck

**Bill Henkel**  
Retail Support - Duck

**Don Sowder**  
Sanctuary Patrol Officer

**Roy Hamilton**  
Sanctuary Patrol Officer

**Nathan Large**  
Sanctuary Patrol Officer

**E.T. Smith**  
Sanctuary Patrol Officer



Eugenio!  
Born 11/09/13

**Fast Facts: Winter 2014**

by Mark Olson, Director of Education

- 1 Non-profit organization (that's us!) offering wild horse tours on the north beach and returning proceeds to herd management, rescue and rehabilitation, education, and legislative action.
- \$0 Amount of federal funding requested in the *Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act (aka HR-126)*.
- 1 North Carolina Senator, Richard Burr, actively supports the *Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act*.
- 2 Number of times the *Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act* has passed the House of Representatives (in 2012 and 2013). To become law, it needs to pass the U.S. Senate. Please urge your U.S. senators to support HR126.
- 1,691 New and returning CWHF members in 2013. Are you a member? It has never been easier to join online! [www.corollawildhorses.com](http://www.corollawildhorses.com)
- 3,000 Acres of the 7,544 acres accessible to wild horses on the north beach are managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Will these 3,000 acres remain accessible to the wild herd for food and water in 2014? Read below....
- 3 Miles of *barbed wire* fence that U.S. Fish and Wildlife installed in the Currituck Outer Banks in late 2013, effectively excluding horses from land to which they formerly had access. CWHF will be monitoring this threatening situation closely. Two other sections totaling almost 300 acres are already fenced with electric wire.
- 17<sup>th</sup> January dates of the Horse World Expo in Timonium, Maryland.
- 18<sup>th</sup> CWHF Director Karen McCalpin will ride and show a Colonial Spanish Mustang—a rescued, formerly wild stallion named Trade Wind.
- 19<sup>th</sup>
- 14,380 Followers on Facebook! Join the club!
- 103 Colonial Spanish Mustangs in the wild herd. The official count of September, 2013 was 102, but the late birth of Eugenio in November brings the count to 103. Five hundred would be an ideal population for herd health and stability. A minimum population of 120-130 is required for a healthy gene pool. Sixty is the population demanded by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 1/2 Acre of pasture built for rescued blind stallion, Amadeo, in the fall of 2013. The project was funded with donations (Thank you!) and built by Assistant Herd Manager, April Hudson, and Sanctuary Patrol Officer, Roy Hamilton.